

OPINION 1735

Anniella pulchra Gray, 1852 (Reptilia, Squamata): neotype designated

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers all previous fixations of type specimens for the nominal species *Anniella pulchra* Gray, 1852 are hereby set aside and specimen no. 64656 in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A. is designated as the neotype.

(2) The name *Anniella* Gray, 1852 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Anniella pulchra* Gray, 1852, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *pulchra* Gray, 1852, as published in the binomen *Anniella pulchra* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above (specific name of the type species of *Anniella* Gray, 1852), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(4) The name *argentea* Hunt, 1983, as published in the trinomen *Anniella nigra argentea*, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology (a junior objective synonym of *Anniella pulchra* Gray, 1852).

History of Case 2552

An application to conserve the accepted usage of the specific name of *Anniella pulchra* Gray, 1852 by the designation of a neotype was received from Dr R.W. Murphy (Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario, Canada) and Prof H.M. Smith (University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A.) on 16 January 1986. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 48: 316–318 (December 1991). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Comments in support from Profs Royce E. Ballinger (University of Nebraska, Lincoln, U.S.A.), Lauren E. Brown (Illinois State University, Normal, U.S.A.), Wilmer W. Tanner (Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, U.S.A.), Robert C. Stebbins (University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A.), John B. Iverson (Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, U.S.A.) and David Chiszar (University of Colorado, Boulder, U.S.A.) were published in BZN 49: 155–156 (June 1992). A note of further supportive comments from Profs Carl Gans (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, U.S.A.), Anthony P. Russell (University of Calgary, Canada) and Laurie J. Vitt (Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman, U.S.A.) was published at the same time.

Further comments in support from Drs Mark R. Jennings (U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, San Simeon, California, U.S.A.), Robert G. Sprackland (Belmont, California, U.S.A.), Hugh Griffith (University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A.) and Richard G. Zweifel (American Museum of Natural History, New York, U.S.A.) were published in BZN 49: 234–235 (September 1992).

It was noted on the voting paper that copies of the application and of the comments published in June 1992 had been sent to Dr Lawrence E. Hunt (cf. paras. 4–6 of the application). The *Newsletter of the Southwestern Herpetologists Society*,

22(8): 5 (August 1992), stated that Dr Hunt now preferred to refer to the California legless lizard by its older, accepted name, *Anniella pulchra*, pending a decision by the Commission.

It was also noted that Gray's (1852) description was brief but, as noted by Hunt (1983, p. 80), 'it would be very difficult to demonstrate that his description was based on more than one specimen' (cf. para. 2 of the application).

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1992 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 48: 317–318. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1993 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 28: Bayer, Bock, Bouchet, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 1: Štys.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Anniella Gray, 1852, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (2)10(59): 440.

argentea, *Anniella nigra*, Hunt, 1983, *Copeia*, 1983(1): 86.

pulchra, *Anniella*, Gray, 1852, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (2)10(59): 440.